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## 2 U.S. reporters claim CIA. contras behind attempt to kill Pastora

*Special to The Herald*

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Two American journalists claimed Thursday that a bomb blast that wounded anti-Sandinista rebel leader Eden Pastora and killed three journalists in May 1984 was the work of a Libyan hired by rival Nicaraguan guerrillas using CIA money.

Tony Avirgan, who was wounded in the bombing, and his wife, Martha Honey, said their accusations were the result of a 16-month investigation financed by the American Newspaper Guild, the New York-based Committee to

Protect Journalists and the World Press Committee.

Avirgan, who was working for ABC-TV as a cameraman at the time of the blast, and Honey, who does free-lance work for National Public Radio and the British Broadcasting Corp., told a crowded news conference that the bomber was Amac Galil, a Libyan who was hired in Chile by two officials of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the largest of

the anti-Sandinista rebel groups known as contras. They said Galil was paid \$50,000 by the CIA to carry out the bombing.

U.S. officials in Costa Rica denied the CIA connection to the bombing. "I have seen the report," one American official said. "I don't want to rush to judgment but the preliminary report I read is based entirely on one or two shadowy sources."

Many of the journalists' findings, contained in a 166-page report, were based on testimony from a young Nicaraguan identified only as "David" and described as a defector from anti-Sandinista ranks who is now dead.

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